Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ZAGREB 01010 151012Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

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CONFIDENTIAL ZAGREB 1010

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, YO

SUBJECT: IMPENDING LEADERSHIP CHANGES

- 1. A RELIABLE AND WELL PLACED PARTY CONTACT TOLJ US THAT TITO WILL BE MEETING TODAY, NOVEMBER 14, AT KARADJORDJEVO WITH TOP GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS TO DECIDE ON WHO WILL FILL WHICH POSITIONS NEXT YEAR. IF ALL GOES SMOOTHLY, DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONCLUDED AND DECISIONS TAKEN TODAY.
- 2. IN SLOVENIA, IT IS EXPECTED THAT POPIT WILL CONTINUE AS HEAD OF THE PARTY AND THERE IS TALK THAT KRAJGER WILL MOVE TO THE PRESIDENCY TO SUCCEED KARDELJ, WHO IN TURN WOULD BE DESIGNATED AS DEPUTY TO TITO (POSSIBLY AS DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE LCY).
- 3. ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE FUTURE LEADERSHIP, I.E., PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDENCY IN EACH REPUBLIC AND HEAD OFLEACH REPUBLICAN PARTY ORGANIZATION. THERE ARE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN CROATIA AND IN SERBIA
- 4. IN CROATIA IS NOW APPEARS THAT BLAZEVIC WILL CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDENCY, BUT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT MILKA PLANINC. LATE LAST SPRING, TITO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ZAGREB 01010 151012Z

HAD INDICATED THAT HE WANTED HER MOVED, PROBABLY TO THE FEDERAL LEVEL, AND HE WANTED SPILJAK TO SUCCEED HER. THE CROATIAN LEADERSHIP IS OPPOSED TO SPILJAK'S RETURN TO THAT POSITION AND PREFERS THAT PLANINC REMAIN. AS PUT TO US, IF TITO WISHES SPILJAK TO SUCCEED PLANINC, THAT WILL, OF COURSE, TAKE PLACE.

5. WE WERE ALSO TOLD OF A CONTINUING STRUGGLE WITHIN SERBIA BETWEEN THE MORE CONSERVATIVE AND MORE LIBERAL ELEMENTS: MARKOVIC AND STAMBILIC RRPORTEDLY ARE AMONG THE FORMER AND VLASKALIC AMONG THE LATTER. KAISER

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